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Message Text

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QUOTE

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PASS: USDA FOR PHILLIPS, IOA/FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR OECD
SUBJECT: GERMANS PROPOSE MAJOR REVAMPING OF AGRICUL-
TURE COMMITTEE PROGRAM

1. THE GERMAN DELEGATION TODAY TABLED A PROPOSAL WHICH IS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM OF WORK NOW UNDERWAY BUT WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE INTO WEDNESDAY. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PROPOSAL:
"1. DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS THE AGRICULTURAL POLICIES DIVISION HAS PRODUCED MANY STUDIES DEALING WITH THE AGRICULTURAL POLICIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER COUN-
TRIES OF THE OECD. THESE STUDIES ARE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUESTIONS OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. THE APPROACH IN THESE STUDIES HAS, HOWEVER, ALWAYS BEEN COMPARATIVE. THIS ALSO APPLIES PARTLY TO
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THE GENERAL SURVEY.

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"2. IT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE IN A FUTURE STUDY TO ADOPT A MORE SPECIFIC APPROACH: THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICIES OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH THOSE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE PRIMARY TASK IN THIS CONNECTION WOULD BE TO PREPARE AN OUTLINE DESCRIBING THE BASIC OBJECTIVES, MEASURES, ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES AND LIMITS OF INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY, FOLLOWED BY AN ANALYSIS OF GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND SECTORAL ASPECTS WITH REGARD TO THE PRACTICABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY.
"3. PRINCIPLES AND MEASURES COMMON TO ALL OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR FORMULATING THE ISSUES AND APPROACHES TO SOLUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERNATIONAL ADJUSTMENT AT THE PRODUCTION, MARKET AND FOREIGN TRADE LEVEL, WHEREBY CONFLICTS BETWEEN POLICY OBJECTIVES COULD CLEARLY BE DEFINED AND ALTERNATIVES POINTED OUT.
"4. IN ANY GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY THE INCLUSION OF THE WORLD-WIDE OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES WOULD BE INDESPENSABLE. IN THIS RESPECT, TOO, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ANALYSE AND EVALUATE THE EXISTING CONFLICTS BETWEEN POLICY OBJECTIVES AND THE INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE TO OVERCOME CRITICAL SITUATIONS.
"5. WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL FARM STRUCTURAL POLICY PRIORITIES COULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR INCREASING THE PRODUCTION OF DEFICIT PRODUCTS, FOR EFFORTS OF DIVERSIFICATION AND AGRICULTURAL PLANNING. CO-OPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.
"6. INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY POLICY, WHICH HAS IN THE PAST MAINLY BEEN DEALT WITH IN WORKING PARTIES AND COMMITTEES OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO AN APPRAISAL SIMILAR TO THE MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AIMING AT COMMODITY AGREEMENTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. IN THIS CONNECTION, A CLOSER LOOK SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF SUITABLE INSTRUMENTS FOR A STABILIZATION OF PRODUCER EARNINGS IN EXPORTING COUNTRIES FOR SPECIFIC PRODUCTS.
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"7. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE POLICY TODAY SEEMS LESS IN A POSITION THAT EVER TO PROVIDE SOUND SOLUTIONS FOR THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED, EVEN AFTER THE RECENT 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IN MANY CASES, THE PROBLEMS ARE ROOTED IN THE PRODUCTION AND MARKET STRUCTURES WHICH EXIST IN THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES; ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TRADITIONAL FOREIGN TRADE INSTRUMENTS, E.G. UNDER GATT, HAVE INCREASINGLY

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BEEN OVERLAPPED BY QUESTIONS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND MONETARY POLICIES. LONG-TERM TRADE ARRANGEMENTS, SWAPS, EXPORT BANS, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AND TIED SALES ARE ONLY SOME OF THE SLOGANS WHICH HAVE ACHIEVED A SOMEWHAT DOUBTFUL TOPICALITY IN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, NOT BE IGNORED THAT REGULATIONS ON STANDARDISATION, THE PROTECTION OF MARKS OF ORIGIN AND ARRANGEMENTS ON THE REMOVAL OF NON-TARIFF TRADE BARRIERS ALSO PLAY A ROLE

WHICH IS NOT INSIGNIFICANT.
"8. ACCOUNT SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE POLICY OF BOTH THE MORE RECENT INSTRUMENTS LIKE THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND IFAD AND THE MORE TRADITIONAL MEASURES SUCH AS TECHNICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE, FOOD AID AND PREFERENTIAL REGULATIONS; THE COMPONENTS OF SECTORAL APPROACHES SHOULD HOWEVER ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, FOR EXAMPLE THE ORIENTATION OF PRODUCTION AND STOCK POLICIES OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TOWARD WORLD-WIDE NEEDS.
"9. THIS PROPOSAL IS SUBMITTED WITH REGARD TO THE DISCUSSION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1977 AND THE REQUEST OF THE SECRETARIAT 'TO PRESENT PROPOSALS FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES' (AGR(76)15) OF 3RD JUNE, 1976. IT AIMS AT IMPROVING RECIPROCAL INFORMATION AND AT ELABORATING COMMON VIEWS AND ATTITUDES. IN THIS RESPECT, HOWEVER, THE WORK SHOULD BE LIMITED TO ANALYSIS. TOO MANY NEGOTIATING AND QUASI NEGOTIATING BODIES ALREADY EXIST AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. THIS PROPOSAL IS THUS NOT INTENDED TO INITIATE A NEW CONSULTATION OR CONFRONTATION MECHANISM BUT MERELY TO PROMOTE AN INSTRUCTIVE, PROFOUND, COMPREHENSIVE AND SHORT ANALYSIS."

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2. UNDERSTAND COMMISSION DISCUSSION BRUSSELS MONDAY AND ANOTHER ATTEMPT TODAY FAILED CONVINCE GERMANS TO WITHDRAW PROPOSAL.

3. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS JUNE 30, US DEL PLANS TO RESERVE POSITION, NOTING BROAD IMPLICATIONS AND POTENTIAL OVERLAP WITH WORK OF OTHER BODIES IN OECD AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS WHICH REQUIRES FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN CAPITALS. WE WILL AS APPROPRIATE MAKE COMPLIMENTARY NOISES ABOUT CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH DISPLAYED BY GERMANS IN SUGGESTING NEW DEPARTURE IN AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AND URGE THEM TO STAFF OUT THEIR PROPOSAL WITH AID OF SECRETARIAT SO AS TO FACILITATE TASK OF CAPITALS IN DETERMINING POSITION AT NEXT MEETING.

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